

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

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APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

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P 232001Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

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INFORM CONSULS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION LINE 16 OF TEXT)

KUWAIT POUCH MUSCAT, DOHA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
OCTOBER 23, 1973:

QUOTE: AMB. MCCLOSKEY: THE TRIP TO CHINA IS BEING POST-
PONED. WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE PRC. NEW DATES
WILL BE SCHEDULED AND THERE WILL BE, WHAT I EXPECT, A JOINT
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ANNOUNCEMENT ON THIS, SOMETIME SOON.

Q. FOR THE RECORD, IS IT BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS INTERNATIONAL SITUATION -- THE PREOCCUPATION WITH THE MIDDLE EAST?

A. YES.

LET ME SAY ON THE MIDDLE EAST, THAT THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF YOUR QUESTIONS TODAY THAT IT WON'T BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO ANSWER. I WILL ENTERTAIN ALL OF YOUR QUESTIONS.

THE SECRETARY, I EXPECT, WILL BE MEETING WITH THE PRESS TOMORROW. WE HAD EXPECTED THAT THAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED TODAY, BUT SCHEDULING PROBLEMS INTERVENED, AND ALSO, THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST BECAME A FACTOR.

BY THAT, I MEAN THAT THERE IS NOW INTENSIVE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY UNDER WAY IN AN EFFORT TO FIND THE MEANS AND THE WILL TO RESOLVE THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IN TERMS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS ADOPTED IN NEW YORK.

Q. WAS THE AMERICAN RESUPPLY EFFORT FOR ISRAEL CONDITIONED UPON THEIR AGREEING TO A CEASE-FIRE?

A. NO.

Q. CAN YOU SAY HOW THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES ANTICIPATED DETERMINING HOW THE CEASE-FIRE WOULD BE POLICED?

A. THERE WAS NO PRECISE DEFINITION OF A MONITORING, OR SUPERVISING INSTRUMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION.

Q. WAS THERE ANY DISCUSSION OF LIMITATIONS OF ARMS SHIPMENTS BY EITHER OF THE TWO BIG POWERS INTO THE MIDDLE EAST AS PART OF THE PEACE ARRANGEMENTS?

A. FOR BACKGROUND, THE SUBJECT WAS REFERRED TO, BUT WITHOUT ANY CLEAR CONCLUSIONS.
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Q. ARE YOU CLEAR ON WHETHER OR NOT THEY EVER ACTUALLY STOPPED FIGHTING?

A. I COULD NOT, BASED ON WHAT WE WERE RECEIVING ENROUTE LAST NIGHT, AFTER 1800 HOURS -- THAT THERE WAS EVER A TIME WHEN IN FACT THE GUNS FELL SILENT ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

REMEMBER, TOO, THAT SYRIA HAS NOT ACCEPTED THE CEASE-FIRE RESOLUTION.

I MIGHT SAY, ON BACKGROUND, THAT WHILE IT IS OBVIOUSLY OF SOME REGRET THAT THE CEASE-FIRE DID NOT COME INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY, AS IT HAD BEEN HOPED, THAT REALISTICALLY THERE WAS ALWAYS IN OUR MIND THE POSSIBILITY THAT FULL PERFORMANCE WOULD NOT COME INTO EFFECT AT THE SPECIFIC HOUR ON THE CLOCK.

Q. IS THE SOVIET AIRLIFT ALSO CONTINUING TO THE ARAB COUNTRIES?

A. YES.

Q. WHAT IS THE U.S. VIEW ON LIMITING ARMS SHIPMENTS TO THE MIDDLE EAST NOW, ONCE THE FIGHTING HAS STOPPED?

A. WELL, ONCE THE FIGHTING HAS STOPPED, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THAT IS A MATTER THAT PROBABLY WILL RECEIVE MORE ACTIVE CONSIDERATION THAN HAS BEEN POSSIBLE IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCE.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE EFFORT TO BRING SYRIA INTO A CEASE-FIRE SITUATION IS PRETTY MUCH HOPELESS OR ABANDONED AT THIS POINT AND THE CONCENTRATION IS ON THE SINAI?

A. IT CERTAINLY ISN'T ABANDONED. AND HERE I GO BACK TO SOMETHING WHICH I WAS SAYING LAST WEEK. IT IS A MATTER OF THE WILL OF THE PARTY -- WHETHER THEY WILL SEE FIT TO ACCEPT THE TERMS IS SOMETHING THE DYNAMICS OF WHICH I JUST CANNOT SPEAK TO RIGHT NOW.

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FOR BACKGROUND, OUR INFLUENCE THERE IS SOMEWHAT OBVIOUSLY LIMITED.

Q. ALTHOUGH YOU SAY YOU CANNOT DISCUSS THE SPECIFICS OF THE AGREEMENT REACHED, CAN YOU TELL US, IS THERE AN AGREEMENT ON HOW THE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD START AND WHERE AND BY WHO, THAT WILL BE REVEALED TO US AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME?

A. FOR BACKGROUND, I DON'T WANT YOU TO CONCLUDE THAT IT HAS BEEN AGREED, EITHER BETWEEN OURSELVES AND THE SOVIET UNION, OR BETWEEN THE TWO OF US AND THE PARTIES, THAT A NEGOTIATING FORMULA AND FORUM HAS BEEN ARRANGED. THIS WILL DEVELOP OUT OF CONTINUING DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WHICH ALL OF THOSE I HAVE MENTIONED PRESUMABLY WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE

ONCE THE FIGHTING IS STOPPED.

Q. CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE SECRETARY WENT TO TEL AVIV; WHAT HAS MOTIVATED HIM TO GO TO TEL AVIV?

A. WELL, FIRST, IT WAS CLEAR TO US-THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A BRIEFING ON THE DELIBERATIONS IN MOSCOW AND THAT WE, FROM THE OUTSET, SAW THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE WOULD GO TO ISRAEL ON OUR WAY HOME. IT WAS NOT, IN FACT, ARRANGED UNTIL THE EARLY HOURS ON MONDAY MORNING, MOSCOW TIME.

Q. IS THERE ANY CHANGE IN THE AMERICAN RESUPPLY RATE?

A. WELL NOW, I HAVEN'T LOOKED AT IT, BUT I MAKE THE GENERAL ASSUMPTION THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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